



MEETING MINUTES
Scituate Shellfish Advisory Committee
Wednesday February 27, 2019
Community Room
Scituate Public Library
85 Branch Street

Committee Members in Attendance: Jeff Palmer, Jamie Davenport, Susan Harrison, Mike Dimeo, and Craig Rosenquist

Committee Members not in Attendance: None

Also, in Attendance: Dave Dauphinee, Keith Dobie, and John McLaughlin

This meeting was called to order by Mike Dimeo at 6:10PM.

Introduction of Shellfish Constable

Background – Mike Dimeo is the Shellfish Constable for Scituate and an Ex-officio Member of the Committee. He has over 25 years with the Coast Guard. Some of his time was spent on active duty in Scituate. He is currently a Coast Guard Reserve Officer. He is the Marshfield Harbormaster and serves part time as the Shellfish Constable in Scituate. He is a resident of Scituate.

Introduction of Shellfish Advisory Committee Members (both voting & Ex-officio).

Jeff Palmer is a Town Recreational Shellfish Permit Holder who has been a resident of Scituate for 24 years. He has held a recreational shellfish license for 20 years. He is interested in expanding recreational season and areas as well as supporting opening of commercial oyster beds. He is also active in other Scituate community service organizations, mainly Knights of Columbus.

Jamie Davenport is an At Large Member who has lived in Scituate for over 10 years and has run an aquaculture business with his family for 12 years in Dennis, MA. He is excited to bring Aquaculture to Scituate and is interested in developing an aquaculture business in Scituate.

Susan Harrison is an At Large Member who is new to Scituate. She grew up in Rhode Island and spent 15 years on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. She has volunteered in oyster aquaculture and replenishment projects on the Chesapeake.

Craig Rosenquist is the Member appointed by the Waterways Commission.

Craig has lived in town for over 30 years and have been clamming in town for as long.

He is interested in helping the town get the commercial shellfish process up and running, while learning how the shellfish aquaculture business works.

Discussion of Drafting Meeting Minutes:

Mike Dimeo asked for volunteers to draft meeting minutes. Susan Harrison volunteered to draft the meeting minutes.

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) involvement in Shellfish Aquaculture Management and Permitting

Mike Dimeo explained that DMF is involved in a preliminary site assessment to determine feasibility, infrastructure, and egress for potential aquaculture site locations. In addition, DMF is involved in the private aquaculture license certification and operational permitting. DMF also offers technical assistance to municipalities regarding shellfish propagation techniques, management of opening and closures, development of shellfish management plans and shellfish aquaculture development and regulations. Mike said that based on existing water sample data, “The Flats” located in Briggs Harbor west of Scituate Neck should be considered for aquaculture farming feasibility. Other sites are possible however, the Town would need additional water quality data. A preliminary site visit will be scheduled in March by Mike Dimeo with the Shellfish Advisory Committee and Chris Schillaci at DMF.

Discussion on comprehensive town Bylaws:

Mike Dimeo explained that one goal for this committee is to draft proposed changes including adding aquaculture farming to the existing Shellfish Regulations. Regulations need to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for review. The Shellfish Advisory Committee will compile and review existing Bylaws including Dennis, MA and Duxbury, MA.

Jamie Davenport suggested that the Committee should engage the Scituate Assessor’s Office to determine accurate town and property lines.

Funding/Fees/Permitting/Selection of Applicants & How Many Applicants:

Mike Dimeo explained that after the Shellfish Committee addresses feasibility, permitting, selection process and applications for aquaculture will need to be discussed.

Walk-ins and Community Input/ Feedback:

Dave Dauphinee introduced himself as a passionate fisherman who has been involved in numerous local bivalve restoration efforts. He asked if the committee was considering shellfish propagation and if the committee was considering the North River or the Harbor as potential propagation locations. Mike Dimeo responded that it is something we could consider.

Keith Dobie introduced himself as a private land owner on the North River. He asked if the Shellfish Committee was considering aquaculture in the North River. Mike Dimeo responded that the town would need more water quality testing for the state to approve but that it was something we could consider.

John McLaughlin introduced himself as a resident who is interested in aquaculture. He suggested that students at Scituate High School might be able to help drafting meeting minutes for required community service hours. He also suggested that the Committee have one agenda printed in large print for the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 13, 2019 at 6:30pm tentative location Public Library Small Meeting Room.

Proposed Agenda: A working Session Meeting including a detailed discussion, page by page review of Aquaculture Bylaws from other towns. Drafting Scituate Aquaculture Bylaws.

There being no more business to discuss, Mike Dimeo asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:17PM. A motion was made by Jamie Davenport, seconded by Susan Harrison.
Unanimous Vote (5:0)

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Harrison